

REMARKS

Claims 1-283 were pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claims 106, 158, 179, 186, 229, 231, 235, 240, 242, 267, 270, 280, and 282 have been cancelled, claims 4-6, 107-114, 159-175, 180-185, 187-193, 225, 230, 232-234, 236-239, 241, 243-245, 268-269, 271-276, 281, and 283 have been amended, and claims 284-289 have been added. Thus, claims 1-105, 107-157, 159-178, 180-185, 187-228, 230, 232-234, 236-239, 241, 243-266, 268-269, 271-279, 281, 283-289 are pending. Amendment of any claims is not a dedication to the public or an abandonment of any unclaimed subject matter. Further no new matter has been added. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded claim embodiments in future continuation and/or divisional applications.

Claim Objections

Claims 4-6 stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as allegedly being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. By this response, claims 4-6 have been amended to depend only on claim 1, and new claims 284-289 have been added to properly depend from claims 2 and 3, respectively.

The Examiner has also indicated if claims 7, 13, 22, 115, 131, 144, 176 and 200 are found to be allowable, then claims (106, 158, 280), (179, 282), (186), (229), (231, 267), (235, 270), (240) and (242) will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof.

In order to expedite prosecution of this patent application, the applicants have cancelled all of the claims objected to (claims 106, 158, 179, 186, 229, 231, 235, 240, 242, 267, 270, 280, and 282) as being substantially duplicative, and amended all of the claims depending therefrom to correct the dependencies.

Thus, the applicant has resolved all of the objections raised by the January 26, 2006 Office Action, and respectfully requests allowance of all of the pending claims.

Double Patenting

The Examiner has withdrawn his rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-6 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,811,720. The Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing his rejections.

Furthermore, claims 1-283 stand rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16, 1-7; and 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,811,720, 6,916,430 and 6,132,823, respectively.

Without agreeing with the non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection, the Applicant's herewith submit a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) to overcome the rejection of claims 1-283 based on nonstatutory double patenting grounds over claims 1-16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,811,720. Applicant's also submit herewith a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) to overcome the rejection of claims 1-283 based on nonstatutory double patenting grounds over claims 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,916,430. Applicant's also submit herewith a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) to overcome the rejection of claims 1-283 based on nonstatutory double patenting grounds over claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,132,823.

Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection and allowance of all of the currently pending claims.


CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **458172000300**. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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